

## Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-25

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----- 123246

R 141420Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6964

INFO USIA WASHDC

UNCLAS BUCHAREST 4170

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AMED, OGEN, RO, US

SUBJECT: ILLNESS OF FSL ANGELA VOICU

1. EMBASSY FSLE ANGELA VOICU, WHO HAS BEEN EMPLOYED BY PRESS AND CULTURAL SECTION SINCE 1962, HAS BEEN HOSPITALIZED SINCE EARLY SEPTEMBER 1973 WITH WHAT EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS HAS BEEN DIAGNOSED AS BACTERIAL ENDOCARDITIS. MINHEALTH REPRESENTATIVE WHO HAS DISCUSSED ILLNESS ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS WITH NOICU TOLD EMBASSY NOVEMBER 13 THAT ILLNESS IS ONE WHICH STARTED SEVERAL YEARS AGO AND WHICH RECURS SEVERAL TIMES A YEAR. MINHEALTH REPRESENTATIVE SAID DIAGNOSIS HAD BEEN CONFIRMED BY LABORATORY ANALYSIS BUT THAT TREATMENT BY ROMANIAN DOCTORS OF CONDITION HAD SO FAR BEEN LARGELY INEFFECTUAL. VOICU IS RECEIVING REGULAR DOSAGES OF ANTI-BIOTICS, BUT HER CONDITION HAS NOT IMPROVED. MINHEALTH SPOKESMAN SAID BACTERIA HAD NOT YET BEEN ISOLATED AND THAT LATEST AND MOST EFFECTIVE ANTIBIOTICS HAD NOT BEEN USED AS RESULT THEIR UNAVAILABILITY IN ROMANIA. ALTHOUGH MINHEALTH SPOKESMAN WAS SPEAKING UNOFFICIALLY AND HAD NO FIRST-HAND KNOWLEDGE OF CASE, HE EXPRESSED OPINION THAT VOICU'S CASE WAS "PERILOUS" ONE WHICH COULD BECOME FATAL IF NOT CHECKED IN NEAR FUTURE.

2. WITH UNOFFICIAL MINHEALTH SUPPORT, EMBASSY HOPES TO OBTAIN MEDICAL HISTORY ON VOICU FROM ROMANIAN MEDICAL SOURCES IN NEAR FUTURE. AS SOON AS HISTORY IS AVAILABLE, WE WILL PROVIDE FULL DETAILS TO FACILITATE ANALYSIS BY US EXPERTS OF VOICU'S CASE. IN INTERIM, HOWEVER, EMBASSY WOULD VERY MUCH APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT/AGENCY MAKING APPROPRIATE INQUIRIES WITH DHEW AND NIH ON PRELIMINARY BASIS TO INVESTIGATE POSSIBILITIES OF ARRANGING

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FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL TREATMENT AT NO COST TO VOICU IN US.

MINHEALTH REP SAID GOR WOULD BE UNABLE PROVIDE FINANCIAL SUPPORT SHOULD SUCH TREATMENT MATERIALIZE, BUT HE ADDED THAT HE FILT SPECIAL MENHEALTH COMMITTEE WOULD PROVIDE SWIFT APPROVAL FOR ANY ARRANGEMENTS US MIGHT MAKE. WITH REGARD TRAVEL, WE HAVE NOT YET DISCUSSED SITUATION WITH VOICU (NOR WILL WE UNTIL NEED ARISES), BUT WE DOUBT SHE WOULD BE ABLE PROVIDE SUFFICIENT FUNDS FROM EMBASSY SALARY TO COVER ROUND TRIP AIR TRAVEL TO WASHINGTON. THUS IT MAY BE NECESSARY, AS WE HAVE DONE IN THE PAST, TO INTERVENE WITH CAB ON BEHALF VOICU TO OBTAIN FREE ROUND TRIP AIR PASSAGE ON PAN AMERICAN FOR HER. (FYI: INFORMAL SOUNDINGS OF LOCAL PANAM REP HERE INDICATE NO INSURMOUNTABLE PROBLEM THIS REGARD.

3. WHILE NATURE OF ABOVE REQUEST ADMITTEDLY UNUSUAL, WE FEEL FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION OF IT WOULD EFFECTIVELY COMPORT WITH US INTERESTS IN ROMANIA. NBVOICU IS HIGHLY EXPERIENCED AND COMPETENT FSL WHOSE CONTRIBUTIONS TO MISSION IN GENERAL AND P&C PROGRAMMING IN PARTICULAR WOULD WARRANT WHATEVER SPECIAL EFFORT CAN BE MADE BY USG TO ASSIST HER. AT VERY LEAST, FUNCTIONAL COOPERATION OF KIND ENVISAGED THROUGH U.S. MEDICAL INTERVENTION WOULD ENABLE THIS RELATIVELY YOUNG EMPLOYEE (38) CONTINUE SERVE WITH SIGNIFICANT EFFECTIVENESS EMBASSY BUCHAREST. FINALLY, THERE WOULD BE OBVIOUS BOOST TO MORALE OF ALL LOCAL EMPLOYEES THAT WE COULD HELP IN MANNER SIMILAR TO OTHER WESTERN EMBASSIES (WE UNDERSTAND THAT SEVERELY ILL UK LOCAL WAS EVACUATED TO BRITAIN FOR TREATMENT THIS YEAR).  
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